GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants – Registration and Stamps – Surprise check conducted on 09.09.2019, on the Joint Sub-registrar Office, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam District - Allegation of corruption & criminal misconduct against the staff of S.R.O office, Gajuwaka - Initiation of Disciplinary Proceedings against Smt. R.Sakunthala, Sub-Registrar Grade-II, O/o. JSR, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam under Rule 20 of APCS (CCA) Rules, 1991 – Articles of Charges - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.437 Dated:16.05.2024
Read:-

G.O.Ms.No.188, Revenue (Vig.II) Department, Dated:27.07.2021.

&

ORDER:

In continuation of the orders issued under Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 in the reference read above, it is considered necessary to hold an enquiry against Smt. R.Sakunthala, Sub-Registrar Grade-II, O/o. Joint Sub Registrar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the said rules.

2. The substance of the imputation of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of articles of charge (Annexure-I) and the imputation of misconduct or misbehavior in support of each article of charge is enclosed (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom the articles of charge are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III and IV).

3. Smt. R.Sakunthala, Sub-Registrar Grade-II, O/o. Joint Sub Registrar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam is directed to submit his written statement of defence, within ten days of the receipt of this Order.

4. Smt. R.Sakunthala, Sub-Registrar Grade-II, O/o. Joint Sub Registrar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charge as are not admitted. She should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Smt. R.Sakunthala, Sub-Registrar Grade-II, O/o. Joint Sub Registrar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam is further informed that if she does not submit his written statement of defence on or before the date specified in para 3 above, further action will be processed based on the material available.

6. Attention of Smt. R.Sakunthala, Sub-Registrar Grade-II, O/o. Joint Sub Registrar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings, it will be presumed that she is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(P.T.O)

7. The receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr.K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Smt. R.Sakunthala, Sub-Registrar Grade-II, O/o. JSR, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam *(through the* Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Visakhapatnam *with a request to serve the G.O, to the individual and furnish the served copy with dated acknowledgement for record).*
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Visakhapatnam.
Copy to:
The Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Tadepalli, Guntur District.
Copy to:
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, APVC, Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE–I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT. R. SAKUNTULA, D/O. LATE APPARAO, 60 YRS., WORKED AS SUB-REGISTRAR GRADE-2, O/O. THE JOINT SUB-REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, GAJUWAKA, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT (SO.9).

That Smt. R. Sakuntula, D/o. Late Apparao, 60 yrs., worked as Sub-Registrar Grade-2, O/o. the Jt. Sub-Registrar's Office, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam District (herein after referred as Government Servant) while functioning as such during the period between 19.02.2018 (Date of joining at O/o. SRO, Gajuwaka) to 05.07.2019 (till date of her transfer) committed grave misconduct in as much as:

ARTCILE-I:

That the Government Servant allowed three unauthorized persons i.e., Kum. P. Girija, Kum. Budi Swapna and Kum. Rongali Ramya to work in SRO Office, Gajuwaka.

Smt. R. Sakuntula, D/o. Late Apparao, 60 yrs., worked as Sub-Registrar Grade-2, O/o. the Jt. Sub-Registrar's Office, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam District by her above mentioned acts exhibited lack of devotion to duty, failed to maintain integrity, behaved in a manner unbecoming of a Government Servant and brought down the prestige of the Government and there by violated/contravened Rules 3(1) & 3(2) of AP Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Dr.K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE –II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOR IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT. R. SAKUNTULA, D/O. LATE APPARAO, 60 YRS., WORKED AS SUB-REGISTRAR GRADE-2, O/O. THE JOINT SUB-REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, GAJUWAKA, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT.

Smt. R. Sakuntula, D/o. Late Apparao is native of Vizianagaram. Her date of birth is 07.04.1963. She entered into Government service on 07.06.1988 FN as Junior Assistant in APPSC, Hyderabad and worked upto 27.08.1992 AN. Later she worked in the same capacity at O/o. Inspector General of Regn. and Stamps, A.P., Hyderabad from 27.08.1992 AN to 23.10.1992 AN. Later she worked in the same capacity at O/o. Dist. Registrar, Srikakulam Dist. from 24.10.1992 to 06.06.1996 AN. Later she worked in the same capacity at SRO, Ranasthalam, Srikakulam Dist. from 10.06.1996 FN to 19.07.2002 AN. Later she worked in the same capacity at SRO, Amadalavalasa, Srikakulam Dist. from 20.07.2002 FN to 24.11.2004 FN. Later she got promotion as Sr. Asst. and worked as such at O/o. the District Registrar, Srikakulam from 24.11.2004 to 04.04.2006. Later she worked as Jr. Asst. at O/o. District Registrar, Srikakulam from 04.04.2006 to 13.06.2007. Later she worked as Sr. Asst. at O/o. District Registrar, Srikakulam Dist. from 13.06.2007 FN to 20.07.2007. Later she worked as Jr. Asst. at O/o. District Registrar, Srikakulam from 20.07.2007 to 07.08.2007. Later she worked as Jr. Asst. at O/o. Commissioner & Inspector General of R & S, A.P., Hyderabad from 09.08.2007 to 26.03.2008. Later she worked as Sr. Asst. at O/o. Commissioner & Inspector General of R & S, A.P., Hyderabad from 26.03.2008 to 01.10.2010. Later she worked as Sub-Registrar Gr.II at SRO, Yelamanchili from 04.10.2010 to 04.12.2013. Later she worked as Sub-Registrar Gr.II at SRO, Narsipatnam from 05.12.2013 to 10.07.2016. Later she worked as Sub-Registrar Gr.II/Asst. Registrar of Chits at R.O., Visakhapatnam from 11.07.2016 to 05.07.2019, during the period she also worked as Sub-Registrar Gr.II at SRO, Gajuwaka on deputation from 19.02.2018 to 05.07.2019 (the period relates to the allegation pertains to). She is due to retire on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.05.2025. She is here-in-after referred to as Government Servant (G.S.).

CHARGE-I:

That the Government Servant allowed three unauthorized persons i.e., Kum. P. Girija, Kum. Budi Swapna and Kum. Rongali Ramya to work in SRO Office, Gajuwaka.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:

On credible information that the Joint Sub-Registrar, Gajuwaka and the staff of S.R.O. office, Gajuwaka were indulging in corrupt practices by collecting bribe amounts from the general public, who are approaching their office for registration of documents and other official works, through document writers, Assistant document writers and Other private persons, the Inspector of Police, ACB, Visakhapatnam along with mediators and ACB Staff conducted surprise check on the Joint Sub-registrar Office, Gajuwaka from 17.30 hours on 09.09.2019 to 02.45 hours on 10.09.2019.

During surprise check Kum. Polisetty Girija, Kum. Budi Swapna and Kum. Rongali Ramya were found working in the SRO office and on examination.

Kum. Polisetti Girija stated that she is residing along with her family members at Srinagar, Dibbapalem, Visakhapatnam. She studied Inter (MPC group) in Chaitanya Women College, Old Gajuwaka. She is working in SRO office situated at Sheela Nagar, Visakhapatnam since 2 years and at present she was looking after the filing work of various documents in SRO Office. Her elder brother Sri P.Raju who is working as Asst. Document writer under Nanaji employed her through the then SRO Venkaiah Naidu. She is receiving her salary of Rs.3,500/- per month from SROs.

Contd.,2

Kum. Budi Swapna stated that she has been residing along with her family members at Harijana Jaggayyapalem, Visakhapatnam. She studied Polytechnic Diploma(ECE branch) in Sai Ganapathi Polytechnic College, Anandapuram. She is working in SRO office situated at Sheela Nagar, Visakhapatnam since 2017 and at present she is looking after the work of generation of check slip in computer system. As usual, on the day of surprise check i.e. on 9.9.2019 while she was attending her regular duty, at about 5 p.m., the ACB officials came into the SRO office Gajuwaka etc. facts. She is receiving an amount of Rs.7,000/- as salary per month from SROs.

Kum. Rongali Ramya stated that she has been residing along with her family members at Sheela nagar, Visakhapatnam. She studied Inter (CEC Group) in DRM College, Gajuwaka and knows computer operation. She was employed by the then Sub-Registrar, Gajuwaka about 8 months back unauthorisedly to work as computer operator and she used to take photos of parties in SRO office Gajuwaka for the purpose of registration of documents. She is receiving salary of Rs.2,500/- per month from SROs.

Hence, the charge against the Government Servant that allowed three unauthorized persons i.e., Kum. P. Girija, Kum. Budi Swapna and Kum. Rongali Ramya to work in SRO Office, Gajuwaka, is held substantiated.

Thus, Government Servant Smt. R. Sakuntula, D/o. Late Apparao, 60 yrs., worked as Sub-Registrar Grade-2, O/o. the Jt. Sub-Registrar's Office, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam District by the above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government servant and thereby contravened Rules 3(1) & 3(2) of AP Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, Government Servant rendered herself liable for regular departmental enquiry.

Dr.K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE –III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SMT. R. SAKUNTULA, WORKED AS SUB-REGISTRAR GRADE-2, O/O. THE JOINT SUB-REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, GAJUWAKA, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

Documentary Evidence:

The following is the documentary evidence available to substantiate the allegation.

Charge-I:

1. Surprise Check proceedings dated 09.09.2019 drafted at the o/o Joint Sub-Registrar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam District.
2. Any other documents to be filed at the time of enquiry.

Dr.K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE –IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SMT. R. SAKUNTULA, WORKED AS SUB-REGISTRAR GRADE-2, O/O. THE JOINT SUB-REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, GAJUWAKA, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

ORAL EVIDENCE:

The following oral evidence is available on record.

Charge-I:

1. Sri Thota Venkata Satyanarayana, S/o Late Ananda Rao, 57 years, Asst. Engineer, GVMC, Zone-III, Main officer, GVMC, VSP.R/o: Flat No. 203, Sri laxmi Towers-3, Sujata Nagar, Pendurthy, Visakhapatnam. (Mediator-I)
2. Sri Mugada Raju S/o Appa Rao, 40 years, Senior Assistant, Main Office, GVMC, VSP, R/o D.No.30-4-7, Krishna Garden, Visakhapatnam. (Mediator-II).
3. Kum. Polisetti Girija D/o. Paid Raju, 20 yrs., filing work of various documents (unauthorized person) in Gajuwaka SRO office, Sheela Nagar R/o Plot No.216, Srinagar, Dibbapalem, Visakhapatnam.
4. Kum. Budi Swapna, D/o. Sanyasi Naidu, 20 yrs., computer operator i.e. generation of check slip in computer system (unauthorized person) in Gajuwaka SRO office, R/o Diary hospital Road, beside Govt. School, Harijana Jaggayyapalem, Visakhapatnam.
5. Sri K. Ranga Raju, Deputy Superintendent of Police, ACB, Srikakulam, I/c Deputy Superintendent of Police, ACB, Visakhapatnam.
6. Sri M.V. Ramana Murthy, Inspector of Police, ACB, Visakhapatnam.
7. Sri Y.K. Kishore Kumar, Inspector of Police, ACB, Visakhapatnam.
8. Any other witness to be mentioned at the time of enquiry.

Dr.K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER